REMARKS

Status of the Claims

By this amendment, claim 5 is amended. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 4-17 will remain pending in the application. Support for the amendment to claim 5 is found on page 34, lines 4-10 and Figure 44 (a) of the instant Disclosure. No new matter is added in any way.

Applicants note that the Amendment filed on July 10, 2000 was entered and that the response has overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-17 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Soma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,411,767). In the Advisory Action dated July 21, 2000, the Examiner asserts that the arguments are directed to issues which are not commensurate with independent claims 4 and 6. The Examiner asserts that the argument directed to "vertical current collection" is still not persuasive because the claims do not specify a reference point for ascertaining the "vertical direction." The Examiner further asserts that the table of results shown on page 6 of the arguments is not commensurate in

scope with the claims because the table does not specify interconnector material in the two fuel cells. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner asserts that the arguments presented in the Amendment filed on July 10, 2000 are not commensurate with independent claims 4 and 6. Applicants note that in Table 1 on page 6 of the Amendment, the interconnector material of the fuel cell produced by thermal spraying (Soma et al. '767) is a lanthanum chromite-based material while the interconnector material of the fuel cell produced by sintering (instant invention) is $MtiO_3$-based material, specifically $Ca_{0.9}La_{0.1}TiO_3$. The arguments filed on July 10, 2000, therefore, are commensurate with claims 4 and 6 which are drawn to a material having a matrix of the general formula $MTiO_3$ and $A_{1-x}B_xC_{1-y}D_yO_3$, respectively. The Examples in the instant Specification support the notion that any of the $MTiO_3$ materials of claim 4 would be expected to have similar characteristics as the exemplary $MTiO_3$ material illustrated in Table 1.

The Examiner asserts that the claims do not specify a reference point for ascertaining the "vertical direction". Applicants have amended claim 5 to recite "the current passage of the interconnector is current collection in the vertical

direction from a fuel electrode through the interconnector". Thus, amended claim 5 specifies a reference point for ascertaining the "vertical direction".

CONCLUSION

As the above-presented amendments and remarks address and overcome all of the rejections presented by the Examiner, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application and the required fee of $380.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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